

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 27, 2023

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your diligent efforts to protect veterans experiencing food insecurity during the recent debt ceiling negotiations. We also appreciate your work to familiarize us with the Fiscal Responsibility Act. You have clearly demonstrated the value you place in advocating for our nation's farmers, ranchers, and veterans. To that end, we are writing to you today as you begin to implement the Fiscal Responsibility Act, particularly as it relates to SNAP work requirements and the exemptions for veterans.

We thank you for releasing guidance that defines "veteran" for purposes of the SNAP exemption broadly. It is our hope that this ensures that the greatest number of veterans possible benefit from the exemption, a goal you clearly share. We also thank you for releasing guidance that minimizes the administrative burden on veterans to verify their status for purposes of the exemption. The priority for the Administration and Congress must continue to be ensuring that every hungry veteran and their family are connected with services and resources to address their needs.

We are interested in learning from the effects of the SNAP exemption for veterans to inform future action to ensure veterans have easy access to stable nutrition resources. We respectfully urge you to develop detailed and consistent instructions to states and counties on data collection and reporting expectations related to the new exemptions for veterans from SNAP's time limits.

We look forward to working with the Department to monitor implementation of the Fiscal Responsibility Act and to ensure veterans experiencing hunger can easily access SNAP and other nutrition resources.

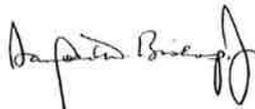
Sincerely,



Mark Takano, Ranking Member
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs



David Scott, Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



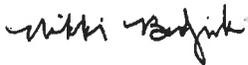
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Mary Sattler Peltola
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Jim McGovern
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Shontel Brown
Member of Congress



Yadira Caraveo
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress



Don Davis
Member of Congress



Jill Tokuda
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress